Approved for use through 10/31/2002. 0MB 0651-0031 US Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid 0MB control number Application Number 09/147,770 Request for Filing Date April 28, 1999 Atinued Examination (RCE) First Named Inventor DEL SOLDATO, et al. Transmittal Group Art Unit 1617 Address to: BOX RCE Examiner Name R. Travers Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Attorney Docket Number 026220-00031 Alexandria, VA 22314-1450 This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R.§ 1.114 of the above identified application. est for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) page 2 Submission required under 37 CFR § 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s). Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked. i.

Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ______. ii. D Other b.

Enclosed i. □ Amendment/Reply iii. 🗆 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) iv. 🗆 ii. □ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) Other _ Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of month(s). (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required) Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by37 CFR 1,114 when the RCE is filed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2300. □ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 07/13/2004 SSESHE1 00000077 09147770 Extension of time fee (37 OFR 1.136 and 1.17) 385.00 OP 01 FC:2801 iii. □ Other Check in the amount of \$385.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed. c.
 □ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED Name (Print Type) Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 39.107 Richard J. Berman Date July 9, 2004 Signature CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with Address All Future Communication to: sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Customer No.: 004372 O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark ARENT FOX, PLLC Office on the date shown below. 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036-5339 Name (Print Type) Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.